

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-04 /061 W

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R 300820Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6655

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NDP AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) SEOUL 6874; (B) SEOUL 7110

SUMMARY: NDP AND GOVERNMENT PARTIES FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT IN ASSEMBLY STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF NDP DEMAND TO FORM CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMITTEE. NDP CONTINUES TO THREATEN BOYCOTT OF BUDGET DELIBERATION IF GOVERNMENT REJECTS DISCUSSION CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION. END SUMMARY.

1. OCT 29 STEERING COMMITTEE DEBATE OF NDP DEMAND FOR SPECIAL TEN MAN BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO REVISE CONSTITUTION (REFTELS) WAS SHORT AND HEATED. DRP AND YUCHONGHOE EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION. GOVERNMENT PARTIES ALSO DECLARED THAT NDP RESOLUTION TO FORM COMMITTEE COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ASSEMBLY BILL SINCE ITS FORMAT VIOLATED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LAW. DRP VICE FLOOR LEADER KIM YIM-SIK TERMED THE RESOLUTION "POLITICAL VIOLENCE."

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2. NDP FLOOR LEADER KIM HYONG-IL ARGUED STRONGLY IN

COMMITTEE FOR NECESSITY CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. KIM
STATED PRESENT CONSTITUTION:

--WAS FORCED ON PEOPLE THROUGH REFERENDUM HELD
UNDER MARTIAL LAW, WITHOUT DEBATE, AND WHILE ASSEMBLY
DISBANDED.

--PERPETUATES ONE MAN RULE AND PREVENTS PEACEFUL
TRANSFER OF POWER

--GIVES PRESIDENT UNDUE POWER OVER THREE BRANCHES
OF GOVERNMENT

--DOES NOT GUARANTEE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF
FREE CONSCIENCE, PRESS PUBLICATION, ASSEMBLY

--DEPRIVES PEOPLE OF HABEAS CORPUS AND "LABOR
RIGHTS."

--RESTRICTS FUNCTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3. NDP RESOLUTION PROPOSED THAT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE
MEET OCT 30-DEC 31, AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS IF
DRAFT CONSTITUTION NOT FINISHED BY DEC 31.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS NEWLY FORMED 330 MEMBER
NDP CENTRAL COMMITTEE OCT 29 VOTED TO SUPPORT EFFORTS
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND RELEASE OF IMPRISONED
STUDENTS, POLITICIANS, AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES. OCT 30
PRESS QUOTES NDP SPOKESMAN AS SAYING SPECIAL
PARTY COMMITTEE WILL FINISH UNILATERAL DRAFT CONSTITUTION
PROVIDING FOR DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BY MID NOVEMBER.

5. KIM YONG-SAM AFFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR AT LUNCH OCT 30
THAT CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE WAS DEADLOCKED AND THAT NDP
WAS HAVING IMPOSSIBLE TIME GETTING DRP AND YUCHONGHOE TO
AGREE ON THE NECESSITY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW. DRP
AT FIRST HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO DEAL WITH NDP BILL, THEN
HAD RESORTED TO DELAYING TACTICS SUCH AS LATEST SUGGESTION
TO CREATE SUB-COMMITTEE DRAWN FROM ASSEMBLY STEERING
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COMMITTEE TO STUDY WHETHER OR NOT CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE
SHOULD BE STUDIED. KIM SAID ISSUE COULD NOT BE
COMPROMISED, THAT FULL STUDY NECESSARY, THAT OTHERWISE
NDP WOULD BOYCOTT BUDGET SESSION AND THAT THIS MOVE
WOULD WIN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

6. KIM SAID THAT NDP KNEW FROM PRIVATE CHANNELS
TO DRP THAT GOVERNMENT WILLING CONSIDER CONSTITUTIONAL

CHANGES BUT NOT UNTIL 1976 WHEN PRESENT YUCHONGHOE
MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRE. THIS WAS TOO FAR IN THE FUTURE
KIM SAID; THERE WOULD BE A CRISIS AS A RESULT OF ECONOMIC
AS WELL AS POLITICAL FACTORS BEFORE THE END OF SPRING
1975, AND IT WOULD BE LED BY LABOR.
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